

Rule 2002-4

NEGATIVE NOTICE PROCEDURE

(a) ***Matters Authorized to Be Heard on Negative Notice.*** The Court has established a list (the “Negative Notice List”) of motions, objections, and other papers that may be considered by the Court without an actual hearing under the negative notice procedure described in this rule if no party in interest files an objection to the relief requested. The Negative Notice List is posted on the Court’s website, www.flmb.uscourts.gov, and may be supplemented or otherwise amended by the Court from time to time. Other motions, objections, and other matters may be considered by the Court using the negative notice procedure if permitted by the presiding judge.

(b) ***Manner of Service.*** Motions, objections, and other papers filed pursuant to this negative notice procedure shall:

(1) Be served in the manner and on the parties as required by the applicable provisions of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, Local Rules, or Court order, and shall be filed with proof of such service in accordance with the provisions of Local Rule 7005-1.

(2) Contain a negative notice legend prominently displayed on the face of the first page of the paper. The negative notice legend shall be in the following form:

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO
OBJECT AND REQUEST FOR HEARING**

Pursuant to Local Rule 2002-4, the Court will consider this motion, objection, or other matter without further notice or hearing unless a party in interest files an objection within [number] days from the date set forth on the proof of service attached to this paper. If you object to the relief requested in this paper, you must file your objection with the Clerk of the Court at [address] and serve a copy on the movant's attorney, [name and address, and any other appropriate persons].

If you file and serve an objection within the time permitted, the Court may schedule and notify you of a hearing, or the Court may consider the objection and may grant or deny the relief requested without a hearing. If you do not file an objection within the time permitted, the Court will consider that you do not oppose the relief requested in the paper, will proceed to consider the paper without further notice or hearing, and may grant the relief requested.

(c) ***Time for Filing Objections.*** For the purpose of completing the negative notice legend, the number of days during which parties may object that is placed in the negative notice legend shall be 21 days, except as set forth on the Negative Notice List.

(d) **Hearings.** In the event a party in interest files an objection within the time permitted in the negative notice legend, the Court may, but need not, schedule a hearing on the motion, objection, or other matter upon notice to the movant's attorney, the objecting party or parties, and others as may be appropriate.

(e) **Consideration Without a Hearing.** If no objection is filed within the time permitted in the negative notice legend as computed under Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9006(a) and (f), the Court will consider the matter in chambers without further notice or hearing upon the submission by the movant of a proposed form of order granting the relief. The movant shall submit the proposed order not later than 14 days after the expiration of the objection period. In the event the movant fails to submit a proposed form of order within this time, the Court may enter an order denying the matter without prejudice for lack of prosecution. In addition to any other requirements, the proposed order shall recite that:

(1) The motion, objection, or other matter was served upon all interested parties with the Local Rule 2002-4 negative notice legend informing the parties of their opportunity to object within 21 (or other) days of the date of service;

(2) No party filed an objection within the time permitted; and

(3) The Court therefore considers the matter to be unopposed.

(f) **Court May Schedule a Hearing Even If No Objection Is Filed.** Nothing in this rule is intended to preclude the Court from conducting a hearing on the motion, objection, or other matter even if no objection is filed within the time permitted in the negative notice legend.

Notes of Advisory Committee

2013 Amendment

This amendment refers parties to the Negative Notice List posted on the Court's website for a complete list of the motions, objections, and other matters that have been approved by the Court for consideration using negative notice procedures and for the applicable number of days in the objection period.

This amendment is effective July 1, 2013.

2004 Amendment

This amendment corrects the Bankruptcy Rules citation to that of the currently used citation. Further, this amendment under section (b)(2) above allows Electronic Filing Users, i.e. those registered with the Court to file pleadings electronically, to take further advantage of using Negative Notice procedures within the electronic filing environment. Together with other Local Rule changes, these amendments are designed to assist attorneys in fulfilling the new electronic filing requirements. Former section (b)(2) is renumbered to (b)(3).

1997 Amendment

This amendment conforms the existing Local Rules to the uniform numbering system prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States and to the model system suggested and approved by the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules of the Judicial Conference's Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure. In renumbering the Local Rules to conform to the uniform numbering system, no change in substance is intended. This amendment was effective on April 15, 1997.

This rule was formerly Local Rule 2.19A. The Advisory Committee Notes to the superseded rules may be helpful in interpreting and applying the current rules.

1995 Amendment

The rule codifies the negative notice procedure that has been in use, in varying degrees, in the Court for some time. As authorized by 11 U.S.C. § 102(1), orders required to be entered “after notice and a hearing,” or a similar phrase in the Bankruptcy Code or Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, may be entered without an actual hearing if appropriate notice is given and no party in interest requests a hearing. This rule is intended to give effect to this authorization in those kinds of matters that experience teaches frequently trigger no opposition. The Advisory Committee considers that this rule will substantially enhance the efficiency and economy of the practice in the Court.

Subparagraph (a)(6) contemplates that the list of motions authorized to be made under the negative notice procedure, as set forth in subparagraph (a)(1) through (a)(5), may be expanded if authorized by the presiding judge for matters heard by that judge.

Although the Advisory Committee foresees that the rule will normally be used in connection with motions, it is intended by the drafters that the rule would also apply if a judge authorizes its use in matters in which an objection rather than a motion initiates the matter. For example, if authorized by a judge for matters before that judge, it could apply to objections to proofs of claim under Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3007. In that case, the party filing an objection to claim would be the "movant" and the objection to claim would be the "motion" for purposes of interpreting and applying the rule.

The rule further contemplates that, when no objection to the motion is filed within the prescribed period, the Court will review the motion for procedural and substantive regularity upon the movant's submission of a proposed form of order granting the motion. The Court may schedule a hearing on the motion if the Court, for any reason, determines that the circumstances make a hearing necessary or desirable.

These amendments were effective on February 15, 1995.